MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): As it is stated that the matter requires careful consideration, I ask again whether the Government *will* be pleased to consider it carefully?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is not possible to give an assurance immediately. I can say that the Government will consider it.

Forest Utilisation Officer.

89. **MR. K. K. THOMAS** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(1) whether they have appointed a Forest Utilisation Officer for reporting on the Travancore forest produce;

(2) whether reports have been submitted by that officer, and if so, on what articles of forest produce;

(3) on what articles reports are still due from the officer; and

(4) whether they will expedite the completion of the reports?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) In 1096, the Government deputed Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai, then Deputy Conservator of Forests, and in 1099, Mr. K. S. Narayana Aiyangar, Assistant Conservator of Forests, for forest 'utilisation' work. There is no Utilisation Officer now.

(2) Progress reports of the work done were submitted to the Government.

Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai conducted an economic survey of the forests in the Northern Forest Division and investigated the possibility of utilising reeds and soft woods for pulp manufacture. As a result of this, a match factory has been established in North Travancore which is utilising *eeta* for the manufacture of matches, etc.

Mr. K. S. Narayana Aiyangar, Assistant Conservator, was, during the period of his deputation, engaged in—

(*a*) finding out the conditions of the timber market and facilities for timber trade;

(*b*) enumeration and valuation survey of the reed areas in the Yerur and Pattanapuram Ranges for supply of raw materials to the Punalur Paper Mills;

(*c*) investigating the possibility of a ropeway at Ramakkalmettu; and

(*d*) experimenting with varieties of minor forest produce. Several specimens of known timbers were also got tested by him regarding their suitability for pencil making, billiard cues, etc.

(3) and (4) In 1099, the Government ordered that the work of investigation of the minor forest produce should be carried on by each of the Divisional Forest Officers in their respective divisions.

Timber Depots in the Kottayam Division.

90. **MR. K. K. THOMAS** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(1) the number of timber depots in the Kottayam Forest Division;

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